

Remarks

Claims 3, 4, 6 and 11-16 are now pending in the application, with Claims 3, 6 and 11-16 being independent. Claims 15 and 16 have been added herein.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

Applicant respectfully traverses the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed April 22, 2004.


A careful review of the specification reveals that the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects Species II, represented by Figs. 8A and 8B. It is respectfully submitted that at least Claims 3, 4, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 16 read on the elected species. In addition, newly-presented Claims 15 and 16 are believed to be generic. That is, using “a smaller amount of pigment ink for the peripheral area” can include using no pigment ink for the peripheral area or using a lesser amount of pigment ink for the peripheral area. Should Claims 15 and 16 be deemed allowable, the non-elected claims should be rejoined and also allowed.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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